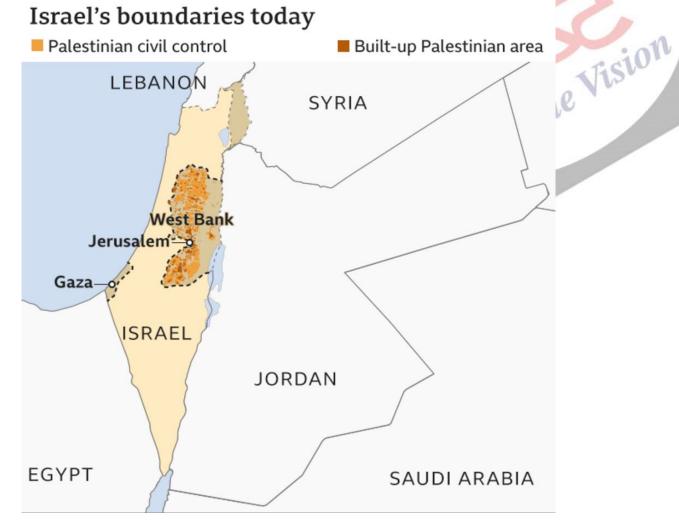# India's De-Hyphenated Policy: Israel and Palestine

Why in News

Recently, on the sidelines of the **COP26 summit in Glasgow**, the Prime Minister of Palestine called for India's support to play a **stabilising role in West Asia** by maintaining cooperation with **all related parties.**

- This statement is significant in the context of India's External Affairs Minister visit to Israel, whereby he **excluded a trip to the Palestinian territory.**
- India in the recent year has been following a **dehyphenation policy** between Israel and Palestine.

Key Points

- **India's Policy Towards Israel and Palestine:**

- The **[Israeli-Palestinian conflict](#)** dates back to the end of the nineteenth century. It is linked to the **age-old tussle over identity and land** starting with Jerusalem.
  - In 1947, the **[United Nations (UN)](#)** adopted **Resolution 181**, known as the Partition Plan, which sought to divide the **British Mandate of Palestine into Arab and Jewish states.**
  - This led to unresolved conflict between Israel and Palestine.
- Traditionally, India's foreign policy towards Israel and Palestine has been a **hyphenated foreign policy.**
  - However, **hyphenating the ties with Israel – linking them to ties with the Palestinian Authority** – essentially **prevented** India from pursuing a pragmatic policy of what was in **India's best interests**.
  - In recent times, India is being seen shifted towards a **Dehyphenation of Policy.**

- **Dehyphenation of Policy**:
  - India's policy on the longest running conflict in the world **has gone from being unequivocally pro-Palestine for the first four decades, to a tense balancing act** with its three-decade-old friendly ties with Israel.
    - In recent years, India's position has also been perceived as pro-Israel.
  - In 2017, in an unprecedented move, India's PM visited **only Israel** and not Palestine.
    - Then, the recent visit of the Prime Minister to Palestine, Oman and the UAE is again a continuation of similar policy.
  - This departure from earlier policy and endorsing an independent policy towards these two rivals is called the **de-hyphenation in India's foreign policy.**
    - **It means India's relationship with Israel would stand on its own merits, independent and separate from India's relationship with the Palestinians.**
    - The de-hypenhation is **actually a careful balancing act**, with India shifting from one side to another as the situation demands.
  - As India moves towards **becoming a larger player in global politics and economics**, these pre-existing policies are increasingly in need of review, and de-hyphenating Israel and Palestine was a process long past its due date.
  - In recent years, India has **broken the tradition of supporting Palestine at the UN**.
    - In 2019, India voted in favour of Israel at the **[ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council)](#)** to deny observer status to a Palestinian organisation named Shahed.
    - Further, India abstained during the voting on a resolution calling for investigation into Israeli actions in the Gaza Strip at the **[Human Rights Council.](#)**
- **Palestine Call For India:**
  - India had a historic tradition of supporting the rights of the Palestinian people. Palestine wants India's technical support to be **"parallel to the political support".**
  - It wants India to reaffirm supporting the **Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent State of Palestine**, with Jerusalem as its capital.

Way Forward

- India's role in multilateral organisations requires "strenuous efforts in cooperation with all related parties to achieve security and stability in the Middle East and West Asia".
- India is currently serving as a non-permanent member of the **[United Nations Security Council for 2021-22](#)** and was re-elected to the **Human Rights Council for the 2022-24**. India should use these multilateral forums to **act as a mediator** to resolve the Israel-Palestine issue.

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